Application No. 09/974,905 Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the

following discussing is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are pending, Claims 2-3 and 6, 8, 9, and 11-12 having

been amended and Claims 1, 7 and 10 cancelled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 9 was objected to, Claims 1, 7 and 10 were

rejected as being anticipated by Doi (U.S. Patent 4,747,091); and Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11 and 12

were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

In reply, the objection to Claim 9 has been corrected by adopting the Examiner's

suggestion.

In view of the indication of the allowability of Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11 and 12, each of

these claims have been written in independent form and are now believed to be in allowable

form. Claims 1, 7, and 10 have been cancelled and will be prosecuted in a continuation

application.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the indication of

allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 2-6,

8, 9, 11 and 12, as amended, patentable defines over the asserted prior art. The present

application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable

reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Bradley D. Lytle

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

8